



Volume 45, No. 10

November 1996

The Spoonbill

December 2 Meeting Speaker & Topic

"Alaskan Birding"
a presentation by
Bob Ohmart

After presenting the 1997 budget the multi-talented Mr. Ohmart will commence to talk about his Spring '96 Alaska birding adventure. He plans to focus on the Pribilof Island of St. Paul.

The December meeting is set for Monday, December 2, 7 P.M. at St. Phillips' United Methodist Church, 5501 Beechnut at Renwick.

December Learning Corner

CBC Tune-Up
taught by P.D. Hulce

Its soon to be Christmas Bird Count time and P.D. will have the information and insight to make us all better counters. Your invited to join P.D. and other OG members at 6:30 PM.

January 6 Meeting Speaker

Watch for the next *Spoonbill* for a program announcement.

1997 Proposed Budget

by OG Treasurer Bob Ohmart

Proposed 1997 budget. A vote to accept it by the OG membership is set for the December 2 meeting.

Income

Surplus (1996)	2,115
Membership	4,800
Sales	350
Interest	40
Total	7,255

Expenses

Spoonbill	3,200
Meetings	2,300
Facilities	200
Library	200
Supplies	125
Nature Discovery Center	500
Hawk Count	350
Xmas Count (boat)	300
Bank Charges	60
Total	7,235

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The Spoonbill

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Mail, fax or e-mail submissions by the 15th of every month for possible inclusion. Include the author's name, address and phone number.

September Meeting Minutes

September 9, 1996: Chairman Bob Luckner welcomed everyone to the September meeting. The 1st field trip of the year will be September 28th at the Hawk Watch. The Houston Audubon will also be having a field trip there that day. It will be at Smith Point at Candy Abshire Wildlife Management Area.

The Hummingbird Celebration in Rockport will start on the 12th. On the 11th the Houston Audubon will be having a talk on Golden-cheeked Warblers and Black-capped Vireos by Mark Lockwood. Our next meeting will be October 7th, and David Dauphin will be talking. We still need someone to help with the aluminum recycling. Also we need a volunteer for the job of field trip chairperson.

Don Richards announced that at the end of this month there will be four advanced birding trips to Boliver Flats and other places. On one trip there will be two tailgate lectures, one called turning to the terns, and the other one is called learning the gulls by gully. The trip will be \$25 a head.

Winnie Burkette announced the beach cleanup on the 21st at 9:00 - 12:00. Meet at Boliver Flats at 7:30 to bird before the clean-up. On October 6th there will be a book signing and bar-b-que an High Island, from 1:00-3:00.

Mary Dodson needs a volunteer to do a birding talk at a Girl Scout neighborhood weekend up in Conroe in November. Contact her for further details.

Bob asked for any good bird sightings. The program on Hawks followed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Janet Rathjen, Secretary.*

Field Trip Report: Anahuac!

I had some worries about this field trip. The weather forecast was not great, 60% chance of rain and very windy. Because of the extended duck season (this trip *should* have been planned to *miss* duck season entirely) suddenly fell on opening day. And, because of opening day the refuge manager Kelly McDowell, our leader, would not be able to join us until 10:30.

However, at 8 A.M. there was a nice sized crowd gathered for the field trip: 18 people. After I thanked everyone for joining us, Janet Rathjen started the trip off right by spotting a Groove-billed Ani on the power lines right at the refuge sign in. Most of those gathered got a chance to see it before it disappeared into the brush.

We went on to the "Willows" where the lucky got a quick look at a barn owl that was flushed while we were getting out of our cars. The wind was keeping birds low and we saw very little at the Willows.

On to the Shoveler Pond loop. At our first stop on the loop we saw the usual egrets and herons one expects to see at Anahuac. We also flushed an American Bittern from the tall reeds. Shoveler Pond itself was

also quite although we did get looks at several Black-crowned Night-Herons in the usual winter roost in the tall cattails across the pond from the observation platform. At our next stop we were able to locate a few Marsh Wrens and a Common Yellowthroat.

By now it was time to join Kelly McDowell for the rest of the tour. When we met up with him he surprised us by taking us along with a group from TAMU who were working on a Ph.D. project studying Yellow Rails. After a few minutes of instructions and introductions. A few of us grabbed ropes and nets to help flush and capture rails for the study.

We attempted to flush Yellow Rails towards the main group from the field trip. We weren't very successful in getting rails out where everyone could see them, but we did manage to flush 4 Yellow Rail, 1 Black Rail, 1 Sora, and many sparrows and Sedge Wrens. Sparrows that I was able to identify were Seaside, Savannah, Le Conte's, White-throated, and Swamp. I regret that we were not able to get more of the group in a position to see the Yellow Rails, although it sure was exciting for us out on the prairie chasing and trying to help capture the rails.

I would like to try another Yellow Rail field trip with the OG. Watch the Spoonbill for details. I'm going to stay in touch with the Yellow Rail study at Anahuac. I've some ideas on how to flush the rails so that

more can see them. I'm considering a much longer line of rope and flushers, maybe 200' and working in a V concentrating and flushing birds towards the main group. Watch the Spoonbills for details for this tentative trip sometime in late February or early March.

Report filed by David Sarkozi, Field Trip Coordinator

Future Field Trip Set

David would like to designate the Houston Christmas Bird Count (CBC) as the OG's December field trip. The Houston CBC is set for Saturday December 21. Call P.D. Hulce at (713) 863-1142 for details.

Sunday January 12, 1997 is a "Beginners" OG Field Trip to West Harris County. Meet at 7:30 am in the Bear Creek Park jogging trail parking lot.

Directions from Houston: I-10 west to Hwy 6, exit north, then turn right or east on Clay Road. Continue past the golf course to jogging trail lot.

Our leader for this field trip is the "beginning birder's best friend" David Bradford. Bring lunch. Contact David Sarkozi (713) 520-5906

Beginning Birding Course

Once again, Don and Houston Audubon Society, are in this joint venture for beginning birds. The joint venture features classes taught over a six month period and includes all the birding habitat accessible in the Houston area. It offers an excellent way for people to get

into birding. As in years past, classes are led by the very capable Don Richardson.

Classes are taught in the field and begin in late winter, run through spring and end in early summer of 1997. The students learn identification, technique and where to bird. Besides looking for and at birds, students also learn from discussion about birding materials. Don's personal experience and hard won advice are also shared. The combination builds confidence in the beginner.

Class size is limited to 12 participants to enhance the learning process. Each class will participate in five day-long field classes, one per month from February through June of 1997. Students pick a day-in-the-week most convenient for them

The schedule follows:

Friday class:

2/7, 3/7, 4/4, 5/2, 6/6.

Saturday class (A):

2/1, 3/1, 4/5, 5/3, 6/7.

Saturday class (B):

2/15, 3/15, 4/26, 5/17, 6/21.

Sunday class:

2/9, 3/9, 4/6, 5/4, 6/8

Students pay \$125 each. Interested? Know someone who is? Call Don Richardson at (713) 661-1365 for more information.

Calendar

December 21. OG Field Trip/Houston CBC. Call P.D. Hulce at (713) 863-1142 for details.

January 12. OG Field Trip. Beginners trip to West Harris County. Call David (713) 520-5906 for details.

Christmas Bird Counts '96

The compilation of this list is courtesy of P.D. Hulce. It was downloaded from his "Texas Gulf Coast Birding and Naturalist Home Page (<http://www.io.com/~pdhulce/>). Check this page often for updates. The list is not meant to be exhaustive but covers a goodly amount of Texas CBC's.

Friday, December 20

- *San Bernard NWR* CONFIRMED, Rick Speer (409) 849-7771
- *Balcones Canyonlands* CONFIRMED, John Kelly (512-331-8693) (Austin area)

Saturday, December 21

- *Houston* CONFIRMED, P.D. Hulce (713) 863-1142 or Richard Uzar (713) 527-0454
- *Armand Bayou*, George Regmund (713) 474-2551
- *Corpus Christi*, Gene Blacklock (512) 882-7232

Sunday, December 22

- *Freeport* CONFIRMED, Jim Morgan (713) 461-3080 or Houston Audubon (713) 932-1639
- *Kingsville*, Paul Palmer (512) 592-7558
- *Corpus Christi* (Flour Bluff), Mel Cooksey (512) 949-8700

Monday, December 23

- *Mad Island Marsh* CONFIRMED, Jim Bergan (512) 972-2559 or Karen Cornelius (713) 853-5634
- *Welder Wildlife Refuge*, Terry Blankenship (512) 364-2643
- *Port Aransas*, Scott Holt (512) 749-5656

Thursday, December 26

- *Galveston* CONFIRMED, Arch Dillard (713) 996-0107 or Dwight Peake (409) 740-4621

Friday, December 27

- *Attwater NWR* CONFIRMED, Winnie Burkett (713) 992-5640

Saturday, December 28

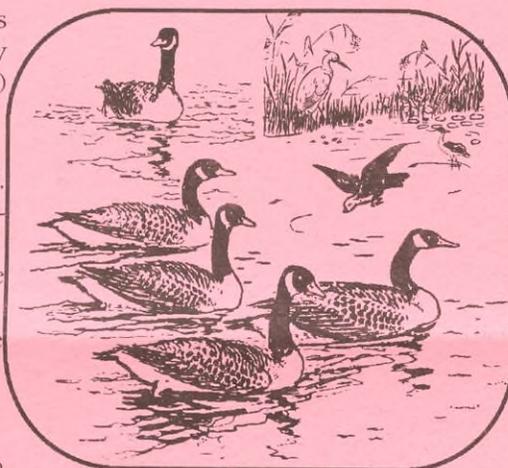
- *Brazos Bend State Park* CONFIRMED, Lynne Aldrich or Peter Gottschling (713) 996-1109
- *Turkey Creek* CONFIRMED, David Baker (409) 899-1878 or (409) 839-2689

- *El Naranjo* CONFIRMED, Nick Jackson (210) 895-4610

- *Mena*, ARK CONFIRMED (NETFO members attend and conduct it) *

- *Big Bend National Park* (2 DAYS) CONFIRMED, Bryan Hale (512-443-2709 H, 512-912-4412 W)

- *Palmetto State Park* CONFIRMED, Dwayne Rogers (512-912-1036)



CBC Warm-up.
Count the number and name the
specie of bird depicted.

Sunday, December 29

- *Bolivar* CONFIRMED, Bill Graber (409) 866-5452
- *Big Bend National Park* (2 DAYS) CONFIRMED, Bryan Hale (512-443-2709H, 512-912-4412 W)

Monday, December 30

- *Trinity River*, P. D. Hulce (713) 863-1142
- *Burnet* CONFIRMED, Ursula Kramer (512) 756-7115)

Tuesday, December 31

- TBA

Wednesday, January 1

- *Cypress Creek* CONFIRMED, Fred Collins (713) 667-6550
- *Tenaha* (Lake Murvaul) CONFIRMED (Panola and Shelby Counties) *

1996 Christmas Bird Counts**Friday, January 3**

- *Old River*, P. D. Hulce (713) 863-1142

Saturday, January 4

- *Buffalo Bayou* CONFIRMED, Bob Honig (713) 665-6963 or Doug Williams (713) 660-7625
- Beech Creek, David Baker (409) 899-1878 or (409) 839-2689
- Lake O' the Pines CONFIRMED (Marion County)*

Sunday, January 5

- *Sea Rim State Park* CONFIRMED, John Whittle (409) 722-4193 or Rubert Hurt (409) 724-2202

Note: Counts marked with an asterisk () are via NETFO, spokesperson is Hazel Bluhm.*

We are waiting to hear about:

- *Aransas NWR*, Tom Stehn (512) 286-3559
- *Rockport*
- *Spring Creek*, John Jones (713) 444-8369 or Calvin Blakely (713) 358-5407
- *Chaparrel WMA*, Jimmy Rutledge (210) 676-3413
- *Lost Maples?*
- *Rio Corona*, Gene Blacklock (512) 882-7232

Whew! What a list. If you can check P.D.'s web page for the current information. Don't miss his CBC Learning Corner at the OG's next meeting.

Good News for the Prairie

OG Newswire

Boosted by two consecutive years of good habitat conditions, duck breeding populations climbed 5 percent this spring to the highest level since 1979, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) says.

The annual breeding duck survey recorded an estimated 37.5 million ducks, up from 35.9 million in 1995. The survey samples 1.3 million square miles across the north-central United States, western and northern Canada, and Alaska and estimates the approximate

numbers of ducks in important breeding areas.

Populations of four species (gadwall, blue-winged teal, northern shoveler, and canvasback) reached record highs. In particular, blue-winged teal, up 25 percent to 6.4 million, and northern shoveler, up 15 percent to 3.4 million, showed substantial gains.

Why the increase? First, Abundant precipitation and good habitat conditions on the breeding grounds. Second, conservation efforts over the last decade restored and conserved vital wetlands in key duck production areas.

Duck populations naturally fluctuate over time as habitat and water conditions change, but the kind of recovery from the drought in the mid-1980s and early 1990s is not possible if not for the habitat conservation efforts, according to USFWS.

The overall number of ponds in the survey area rose 18 percent to 7.5 million, the second highest level ever recorded. The pond count in Canada rose 29 percent, with the biggest gains in southern Alberta and Saskatchewan. The U.S. pond count was similar to last year but still 84 percent above the long-term average.

In addition, other government programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program and the Wetland Reserve Program have conserved significant tracts of wildlife habitat in recent years. For example, since 1986, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, protected, restored or enhanced 2.5 million acres.

Sportsmen and conservation organizations have conserved and restored millions of acres of prime habitat. Laws such as the Swampbuster provisions of the Farm Bill and the wetland protection provisions of the Clean Water Act also conserve waterfowl habitat.

While some species experienced robust increases (e.g. mallard), American widgeon populations experienced a significant decline to 2.3 million from 2.6 million in 1995. Populations of pintail, green-winged teal, scaup, canvasback, redhead, and gadwall are at levels similar to 1995.

Birding Doesn't Get Any Classier **The Great Texas Birding Classic**

by Hannah Gould

Ever wonder why Texas doesn't host a competitive birding event? Well, wonder no more. Get your binoculars and bird guides ready! On April 19, 1997, Texas Parks and Wildlife Nongame and Urban Program staff will kick off the Great Texas Birding Classic—a week long bird watching tournament and celebration of Texas birds to benefit habitat conservation along the Texas Coast.

Modeled after New Jersey's annual World Series of Birding, this first annual event promises to be the biggest, longest, and wildest birding tournament ever held in the United States. Because this is Texas, the Great Texas Birding Classic is bigger by design. We are offering 3 days of competitive birding: April 21 for the Upper Texas Coast, April 23 for the Central Texas Coast, and April 26 for the Lower Texas Coast. These three sections break the 624 mile Texas Coast into manageable segments, let birders thoroughly explore the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail and allow for more participants by having three competition days.

Birders can form teams of 3-6 members and compete in each section individually, or try for one of the two Grand Prizes by competing in all three. Special categories of competition will also be available for out-of-state birders, college and youth teams and celebrity birders. Birders can compete as sponsored teams by seeking the sponsorship of an organization, business or individual, or as an independent team without a sponsor.

For teams who choose to compete in all three sections of the coast, we are offering two ways to win the Grand Prize. The first method is to find the greatest number of species over the course of the three competition days.

This winning team using this methods will win the Conservation Cash Grand Prize, a cash award of at least \$50,000 which the winning team will designate to one of several habitat conservation projects along the Texas

Coast. The second method is to accrue the greatest number of "ticks" during the course of the three competition days. Like doing three Big Day counts, this method concentrates on searching for the maximum number of species on each of the three competition days. Each day's tally will be added for the final score.

The Birding Classic Traveling Bronze, a beautiful bird sculpture will be awarded to the sponsor of the winning team.

Teams must indicate which way they will compete when they register for the Classic. Exciting merchandise prizes will be given to the runners up and in the other competition categories. In conjunction with the Birding Classic local communities and organizations are busily preparing activities to attract both competitors and bird enthusiasts to the Texas Coast in April 1997. These activities will include guided bird walks, workshops, children's activities and Earth Day programs.

Getting involved in these programs will be a way to increase your knowledge of Texas birds, learn a new birding skill and support local Texas communities as they further resources for birders. Perhaps the most important focus of the Great Texas Birding Classic is on conservation. Because both resident species and neotropical migrants rely on the Texas Coast for their existence and are increasingly finding their homes in jeopardy, the Birding Classic is committed to raising awareness about the need for habitat conservation and contributing directly to this cause. This will be done in several ways.

First, the Birding Classic has been structured to have zero impact on threatened and endangered species. The rules of the event explicitly forbid any activity which will interfere with any birds, wildlife or their natural habitats. Secondly, the Conservation Cash Grand Prize is targeted to provide more than \$50,000 for avian habitat conservation. As previously mentioned, the winning team will have the chance to

October 1996 Report

Editors: Phyllis & Tony Frank

Mail CH submission to:

1506 Richvale Ln., Houston TX 77063-5419

A total of 203 species were recorded for the month. The Rissers reported a dark morph Broadwinged Hawk in a kettle at Smith Point. Prairie Flacon was also noted during the hawk migration this year. Other interesting migrants were also reported. Every one is encouraged to submit their reports to the CH. New forms are available at meetings as well as directly from the CH editors.

All reports are due December 3rd. Readers are reminded that all decisions regarding checklist status are made by the checklist committee. Publication of a rarity does not imply acceptance of the record by the editors or the committee. The CH format remains the same this month. The listing uses the following format: bird name, early late dates, reports/total and summary by county or detailed listing. The format of the county summary is as follows: county designation - number of reports/number of birds. The detailed listing format is as follows: county-(number of birds) day, observer code. Very rare birds are underlined. Birds with no previous record on date or vagrant status appear in bold. Birds new to the checklist are capitalized and underlined. Please remember to submit notes on birds very rare or vagrant status. And with all the reminders completed - on to the birds.

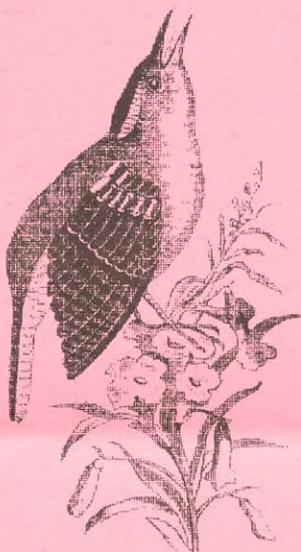
Grebe, Pied-bill 4-27 9/44 U-1/7 BR-1/4 CH-4/16 GA-3/17
 Pelican, Amer Whit 4-27 16/950 CH-7/155 GA-5/630 JE-4/165
 Pelican, Brown 4-27 11/618 CH-6/385 GA-4/193 JE-1/40
 Corm, Dbl-crested 4-27 11/272 BR-1/2 CH-5/53 GA-4/207 JE-1/10
 Corm, Neotropic 4-27 10/166 BR-1/10 CH-4/72 GA-2/44 JE-3/40
 cormorant, sp. 4-11 2/30 CH-(22)4,JW; CH-(8)11,JW
 Anhinga 4-14 8/138 CH-2/120 GA-4/12 JE-2/6
Frigatebird, Magn 5-16 3/7 CH-(3)13,JW; CH-(1)16,JW;
 GA-BF(3)5,SS
 Bittern, American 11-13 2/2 CH-(1)11,JW; CH-AW(1)13,JW
 Heron, Great Blue 4-27 15/84 U-2/27 BR-1/11 CH-6/20
 GA-2/16 JE-4/10
 Egret, Great 4-27 17/160 U-2/42 BR-1/15 CH-6/32
 GA-3/27 JE-5/44
 Egret, Snowy 4-27 10/70 U-2/13 BR-1/6 CH-2/7
 GA-2/31 JE-3/13
 Heron, Little Blu 4-27 8/10 CH-4/5 GA-3/4 JE-1/1
 Heron, Tricolored 5-27 11/39 BR-1/17 CH-3/6 GA-3/11 JE-4/5
 Egret, Reddish 5-27 4/28 GA-3/27 JE-1/1
 Egret, Cattle 4-27 15/1843 U-1/62 CH-6/575
 GA-3/41 JE-5/1165
 Heron, Green 5-20 3/13 GA-BF(1)5,SS; GA-HI(1)6,DS;
 GA-HI(11)20,WBB
 Nt-Heron, Blk-crn 19-26 3/17 BR-1/5 GA-1/11 JE-1/1
 Ibis, White 4-27 12/984 U-2/70 CH-6/725 GA-3/188 JE-1/1
 Ibis, White-faced 6-26 7/152 BR-1/19 CH-3/112 GA-2/11 JE-1/10
 plegadis, sp. 11-20 4/15 CH-3/14 JE-1/1
 Spoonbill, Roseat 4-27 12/66 BR-1/5 CH-4/18 GA-4/19 JE-3/24
 Stork, Wood 14-19 2/2 CH-(1)14,DS; JE-SW(1)19,GTAS
 Whsl-Duck, Blk-bd 6-6 1/4 JE-(4)6,AG
 Goose, Gr Wht-fm 13-20 2/47 CH-(12)13,JW; CH-(35)20,WBB
 Goose, Snow 11-11 1/1 CH-(1)11,JW
 Goose, Canada 11-11 1/30 CH-(30)11,JW
 Duck, Wood 19-19 1/2 JE-SW(2)19,GTAS
 Teal, Green-wing 26-26 1/8 BR-PP(8)26,WP
 Duck, Mottled 4-27 8/63 U-1/15 BR-1/11 CH-1/1
 GA-3/28 JE-2/8
 Teal, Blue-winged 12-26 6/36 BR-1/4 CH-3/17 GA-1/14 JE-1/1
 Shoveler, Northm 26-26 1/10 BR-PP(10)26,WP
 Gadwall 20-26 2/4 BR-PP(2)26,WP; GA-(2)20,WBB
 Wigeon, American 20-26 2/19 BR-PP(9)26,WP; GA-(10)20,WBB
 Vulture, Black 6-26 7/72 U-1/15 BR-1/13 CH-4/14 GA-1/30
 Vulture, Turkey 4-26 16/286 U-1/13 BR-1/33 CH-7/110
 GA-3/115 JE-4/15
 Osprey 5-26 12/13 BR-1/1 CH-2/2 GA-5/6 JE-4/4
 Kite, White-taild 5-27 11/27 U-1/5 BR-1/2 CH-3/7
 GA-5/10 JE-1/3
 Harrier, Northern 4-27 15/72 U-2/8 BR-1/4 CH-6/48
 GA-3/7 JE-3/5
 Hawk, Sharp-shin 4-26 14/211 BR-1/2 CH-6/187 GA-3/12 JE-4/11
 Hawk, Cooper's 4-26 10/49 BR-1/1 CH-6/43 GA-2/4 JE-1/1
 accipiter, sp. 11-11 1/1 CH-(1)11,JW
 Hawk, Red-shouldr 11-26 4/7 BR-1/2 CH-3/5
 Hawk, Broad-wingd 4-20 11/667 CH-(147)4,JW; CH-(74)11,JW;
 CH-SP(38)12,SCS; CH-SP(50)12,JWR;
 CH-(125)13,JW; CH-(214)14,DS;
 CH-(13)16,JW; GA-(2)13,GG; GA-HI(1)20,WBB;
 JE-(2)12,JW; JE-SW(1)19,GTAS
 Hawk, Swainson's 13-13 1/1 CH-(1)13,JW
 Hawk, White-taild 26-26 1/1 BR-PP(1)26,WP
 Hawk, Red-tailed 4-26 8/15 BR-1/2 CH-4/6 GA-2/6 JE-1/1
 Caracara, Crested 6-6 1/2 JE-(2)6,AG
 Kestrel, American 4-27 19/191 U-2/12 BR-1/5 CH-7/135
 GA-5/24 JE-4/15
 Merlin 4-27 10/12 CH-(1)4,JW; CH-AW(1)4,DV;
 CH-(1)11,JW; GA-HI(1)6,AG; GA-(1)13,GG;
 GA-BF(1)20,WBB; GA-(1)27,MBH;
 JE-(2)6,JW; JE-(2)6,AG; JE-(1)6,KS

October Clearing House

- Falcon, Peregrine 4-20 10/18 CH-(6)4,JW; CH-(2)11,JW;
CH-(1)13,JW; CH-(1)14,DS; GA-HI(2)5,SS;
GA-HI(1)6,DS; GA-(1)13,GG; GA-YBR(1)20,WBB;
JE-(1)6,JW; JE-(2)6,KS
- Falcon, Prairie 13-13 1/1 GA-(1)13,GG
- Bobwhite, Northern 12-12 1/1 JE-SW(1)12,JW
- Rail, Clapper 5-20 4/9 GA-2/4 JE-2/5
- Rail, King 26-26 1/1 BR-PP(1)26,WP
- Rail, Virginia 19-19 1/1 JE-(1)19,GTAS
- Gallinule, Purple 4-4 1/1 CH-AW(1)4,JW
- Moorhen, Common 4-27 9/92 CH-5/75 GA-2/14 JE-2/3
- Coot, American 12-27 6/1801 BR-1/1700 CH-4/95 GA-1/6
- Plover, Blk-belli 4-27 8/167 CH-1/3 GA-5/161 JE-2/3
- Golden-Plover, Am 6-6 1/1 GA-(1)6,SCD
- Plover, Snowy 12-27 3/34 GA-BF(11)12,JWR; GA-BF(8)20,WBB;
GA-BF(15)27,MBH
- Plover, Wilson's 20-27 2/10 GA-BF(4)20,WBB; GA-BF(6)27,MBH
- Plover, Semipalm 5-27 3/39 GA-BF(4)5,SS; GA-BF(20)20,WBB;
GA-BF(15)27,MBH
- Plover, Piping 5-27 4/29 GA-BF(6)5,SS; GA-BF(10)20,WBB;
GA-BF(12)27,MBH; JE-(1)6,AG
- Killdeer 5-27 11/71 U-1/9 BR-1/18 CH-4/31 GA-3/9 JE-2/4
- Oystercatcher, Am 5-27 4/40 GA-BF(13)5,SS; GA-BF(10)20,WBB;
GA-(5)20,WBB; GA-BF(12)27,MBH
- Stilt, Black-neck 5-26 5/41 BR-1/14 GA-2/16 JE-2/11
- Avocet, American 5-27 8/526 CH-1/4 GA-5/518 JE-2/4
- Yellowlegs, Great 5-26 5/12 BR-1/6 CH-1/1 GA-2/4 JE-1/1
- Yellowlegs, Less 5-26 3/19 BR-1/2 GA-2/17
- Sandprr, Solitary 6-6 1/1 JE-(1)6,AG
- Willet 4-27 8/140 BR-1/6 CH-1/2 GA-5/120 JE-1/12
- Sandprr, Spotted 19-19 1/1 JE-(1)19,GTAS
- Whimbrel 16-20 2/4 CH-(3)16,JW; GA-YBR(1)20,WBB
- Curlew, Long-bill 20-27 2/75 GA-(6)20,WBB; GA-BF(10)27,MBH
- Godwit, Marbled 5-27 3/57 GA-BF(1)5,SS; GA-BF(50)20,WBB;
GA-BF(6)27,MBH
- Turnstone, Ruddy 5-27 4/39 GA-3/38 JE-1/1
- Knot, Red 27-27 1/4 GA-BF(4)27,MBH
- Sanderling 5-27 5/590 GA-4/440 JE-1/150
- Sandprr, Semipalm 6-6 1/10 GA-HI(10)6,DS
- Sandprr, Western 5-27 7/167 BR-1/3 GA-5/163 JE-1/1
- Sandprr, Least 5-27 7/104 BR-1/2 GA-5/99 JE-1/3
- Sandprr, Pectoral 5-12 2/6 GA-HI(1)5,SS; GA-HI(5)12,SCS
- Dunlin 6-20 2/3 GA-HI(1)6,DS; GA-BF(2)20,WBB
- Dowitcher, S-bill 19-20 2/51 GA-BF(50)20,WBB; JE-(1)19,GTAS
- Dowitcher, L-bill 12-26 2/10 BR-PP(7)26,WP; GA-HI(3)12,SCS
- dowitcher, sp. 4-13 2/31 CH-(6)4,JW; CH-(25)13,JW
- Snipe, Common 20-27 3/13 BR-PP(7)26,WP; CH-AW(5)20,WBB;
CH-AW(1)27,MBH
- Gull, Laughing 4-27 12/3864 U-1/2500 BR-1/200
CH-5/761 GA-2/250 JE-3/153
- Gull, Ring-billed 19-27 3/50 GA-2/45 JE-1/5
- Gull, Herring 6-27 3/12 GA-2/8 JE-1/4
- Tern, Gull-billed 6-6 1/1 JE-(1)6,JW
- Tern, Caspian 4-27 10/281 U-1/30 CH-5/22 GA-2/207 JE-2/22
- Tern, Royal 5-27 6/651 CH-2/6 GA-3/615 JE-1/30
- Tern, Sandwich 16-27 3/12 CH-(5)16,JW; GA-BF(5)20,WBB;
GA-BF(2)27,MBH
- Tern, Common 20-20 1/4 GA-BF(4)20,WBB
- Tern, Forster's 4-27 11/307 CH-5/76 GA-3/161 JE-3/70
- Tern, Black 6-27 5/23 BR-PP(1)26,WP; CH-AW(6)20,WBB;
GA-(4)6,AG; GA-(12)20,WBB
- Skimmer, Black 5-20 3/1050 GA-3/1050
- Dove, Rock 6-27 5/63 GA-3/53 JE-2/10
- Dove, White-wingd 6-27 4/15 GA-(1)6,SCD; GA-(4)20,WBB;
GA-HI(2)27,MBH; JE-(8)19,GTAS
- Dove, Mourning 4-27 15/512 U-1/21 BR-1/12 CH-7/335
GA-1/25 JE-5/119
- Dove, Inca 5-20 4/6 GA-3/5 JE-1/1
- Ground-Dove, Comm 26-26 1/2 BR-PP(2)26,WP
- Parakeet, Monk 13-13 1/3 GA-(3)13,GG
- Cuckoo, Blk-billd 6-6 1/1 CH-SP(1)6,DV
- cuckoo sp. 19-19 1/1 JE-(1)19,GTAS
- Ani, Groove-billd 12-13 2/2 FB-BB(1)13,JWR; JE-SW(1)12,JW
- Owl, Great Horned 6-6 1/1 GA-HI(1)6,DS
- Owl, Barred 26-26 1/1 BR-PP(1)26,WP
- owl, sp. 11-11 1/1 CH-(1)11,JW
- Nighthawk, Common 13-13 1/1 JE-(1)13,KS
- Chuck-wills-widow 6-13 3/3 JE-SW(1)6,JW; JE-SW(1)6,AG;
JE-(1)13,KS
- Whip-poor-will 11-11 1/1 CH-(1)11,JW
- Swift, Chimney 11-13 3/86 CH-2/6 JE-1/80
- Hummer, Ruby-thrt 4-20 14/255 CH-1/1 GA-6/124 JE-7/130
- Hummer, Brd-taild 21-28 1/1 HA-(1)21-28,DM
- Hummer, Rufous 1-31 1/1 HA-(1)1-31,PTF
- selasphorus, sp. 19-20 2/2 GA-HI(1)20,WBB; JE-SW(1)19,GTAS
- Kingfisher, Belted 4-27 16/63 U-2/12 CH-6/22 GA-3/8 JE-5/21
- Wdpeckr, Red-bell 11-26 4/8 BR-1/5 CH-3/3
- Sapsuck, Yel-bell 12-12 1/1 JE-SW(1)12,JW
- Wdpeckr, Downy 4-27 12/28 CH-1/1 GA-6/12 JE-5/15
- Flicker, Northern 11-20 4/4 CH-2/2 GA-1/1 JE-1/1
- Flycatch, Oliv-sid 6-6 1/1 GA-HI(1)6,DS
- Wood-Pewee, East 4-27 13/29 CH-4/7 GA-6/13 JE-3/9
- Flycatch, Yel-bel 6-6 1/1 GA-HI(1)6,AG
- Flycatch, Acadian 6-6 1/1 JE-SW(1)6,AG
- Flycatch, Least 6-6 2/2 JE-SW(1)6,JW; JE-SW(1)6,AG
- empidonax, sp. 4-19 6/21 GA-HI(1)4,DV; JE-SW(1)6,JW;
JE-SW(1)12,JW; JE-SW(8)13,KS;
JE-SR(8)13,KS; JE-(2)19,GTAS
- Phoebe, Eastern 4-26 7/23 BR-1/12 CH-5/6 JE-1/5
- Kingbird, Couch's 20-20 1/1 FB-BB(1)20,JWR
- Kingbird, Western 6-6 1/1 JE-(1)6,KS
- Kingbird, Eastern 4-4 1/1 CH-AW(1)4,JW
- Flycatch, Ss-tail 4-27 21/307 U-1/2 BR-1/2 CH-7/152
GA-4/26 JE-8/125
- Lark, Horned 27-27 1/15 GA-BF(15)27,MBH
- Swallow, Tree 4-26 8/752 BR-PP(2)26,WP; CH-(12)4,JW;
CH-(31)11,JW; CH-(21)13,JW; CH-(37)16,JW;
CH-(85)20,WBB; JE-SR(30)13,KS;

October Clearing House

JE-SW(5)19,GTAS
 Swallow, N R-wing 11-26 6/978 BR-PP(4)26,WP; CH-(55)11,JW;
 CH-(750)13,JW; CH-(99)16,JW; CH-AW(50)20,WBB;
 JE-SW(20)19,GTAS
 Swallow, Barn 4-26 10/221 BR-1/7 CH-5/165 GA-2/44 JE-2/5
 swallow, sp. 4-12 2/518 CH-(18)4,JW; CH-HI(500)12,SCS
 Jay, Blue 5-27 14/138 CH-3/10 GA-6/50 JE-5/78
 Crow, American 4-26 5/22 BR-1/9 CH-4/13
 Chickadee, Carol 26-26 1/19 BR-PP(19)26,WP
 Titmouse, Tufted 26-26 1/22 BR-PP(22)26,WP
 Wren, Carolina 6-26 3/6 BR-1/3 GA-1/2 JE-1/1
 Wren, House 6-26 8/12 BR-1/1 CH-2/4 GA-3/5 JE-2/
 2
 Wren, Sedge 19-273/60 U-(15)27,MBH, BR-PP(44)26,WP;
 JE-(1)19,GTAS
 Wren, Marsh 19-19 1/1 JE-(1)19,GTAS
 Kinglet, Ruby-crn 6-26 8/40 BR-1/8 CH-1/1 GA-3/9 JE-3/
 22
 Gnatcatch, Blu-gra 4-27 22/198 BR-1/6 CH-9/33 GA-6/99 JE-
 6/60
 Bluebird, Eastern 26-26 1/1 BR-PP(1)26,WP
 Thrush, Gra-cheek 6-6 2/3 CH-SP(1)6,DV; GA-HI(2)6,DS
 Thrush, Swainsons 5-13 7/11 CH-SP(1)6,DV; GA-HI(1)5,SS;
 GA-HI(2)6,AG; JE-SW(2)6,JW; JE-
 SW(2)6,AG;
 JE-(2)6,KS; JE-(1)13,KS
 Thrush, Wood 6-19 3/6 JE-SW(2)6,AG; JE-(2)13,KS;
 JE-SW(2)19,GTAS
 Robin, American 6-6 1/6 JE-(6)6,JW
 Catbird, Gray 4-20 11/43 CH-2/2 GA-4/18 JE-5/23
 Mockingbird, N 4-27 15/146 U-2/28 BR-1/7 CH-6/54
 GA-3/25 JE-3/32
 Thrasher, Brown 4-27 15/65 CH-4/7 GA-6/25 JE-5/33
 Shrike, Loggerhed 4-27 16/237 U-2/24 BR-1/10 CH-6/126
 GA-2/30 JE-5/47
 Starling, Euro 4-27 12/725 U-2/42 CH-5/138 GA-2/70 JE-3/475
 Vireo, White-eyed 6-13 11/23 CH-3/3 GA-3/9 JE-5/11
 Vireo, Solitary 13-19 2/2 JE-SW(1)13,KS; JE-SW(1)19,GTAS
 Vireo, Yell-thrtd 6-19 3/3 JE-SW(1)6,AG; JE-SR(1)13,KS;
 JE-SW(1)19,GTAS
 Vireo, Red-eyed 6-27 9/23 CH-AW(2)6,DV; GA-HI(5)6,AG;
 GA-HI(3)6,DS; GA-HI(1)27,MBH;
 JE-SW(3)6,JW; JE-SW(3)6,AG; JE-(4)6,KS;
 JE-SW(1)12,JW; JE-SW(1)19,GTAS
 Warb, Blue-winged 6-6 1/1 JE-SW(1)6,AG
 Warb, Tennessee 6-20 9/71 CH-AW(4)6,DV; GA-HI(20)6,AG;
 GA-HI(20)6,DS; GA-HI(4)13,DV;
 GA-HI(1)20,WBB; JE-SW(3)6,JW;
 JE-SW(15)6,AG; JE-(3)6,KS; JE-SW(1)13,KS
 Warb, Orange-crn 6-26 4/12 BR-PP(1)26,WP; JE-SW(3)6,JW;
 JE-(3)6,KS; JE-SW(5)19,GTAS
 Warb, Nashville 13-19 2/2 GA-HI(1)13,DV; JE-SW(1)19,GTAS
 Parula, Northern 6-6 2/3 GA-HI(2)6,AG; JE-SW(1)6,AG
 Warb, Chstnt-side 6-6 5/26 GA-HI(5)6,AG; GA-HI(5)6,DS;



JE-SW(5)6,JW; JE-SW(3)6,AG; JE-(8)6,KS
 Warb, Magnolia 4-19 12/38 CH-AW(1)4,DV; CH-SP(1)6,DV;
 CH-AW(2)6,DV; CH-AW(2)13,DV; GA-HI(3)6,AG;
 GA-HI(4)6,DS; JE-SW(8)6,JW; JE-SW(4)6,AG;
 JE-(8)6,KS; JE-SW(3)12,JW; JE-SR(1)13,KS;
 JE-SW(1)19,GTAS
 Warb, Blk-thr Blu 6-6 1/1 JE-(1)6,KS
 Warb, Yellow-rump 13-13 1/1 JE-SR(1)13,KS
 Warb, Blk-thr Grn 6-19 7/7 CH-AW(1)6,DV; GA-HI(1)6,AG;
 GA-HI(1)6,DS; GA-HI(1)13,DV; JE-SW(1)6,JW;
 JE-SW(1)6,AG; JE-SW(1)19,GTAS
 Warb, Blackburn 6-6 4/10 GA-HI(2)6,AG; GA-HI(3)6,DS;
 JE-SW(3)6,AG; JE-(2)6,KS
 Warb, Yel-throat 12-13 2/2 JE-SW(1)12,JW; JE-SR(1)13,KS
 Warb, Prairie 6-19 2/3 JE-SW(2)6,JW; JE-SW(1)19,GTAS
 Warb, Palm 11-19 3/36 CH-(1)11,JW; JE-SR(30)13,KS;
 JE-SR(5)19,GTAS
 Warb, Bay-breastd 6-6 1/1 GA-HI(1)6,AG
 Warb, Blk-and-wht 4-19 16/132 CH-5/47 GA-5/17 JE-6/68
 Redstart, Amer 4-27 16/50 BR-PP(3)26,WP; CH-
 SP(1)6,DV;
 CH-AW(2)6,DV; CH-AW(1)13,DV; GA-
 HI(3)4,DV;
 GA-HI(1)5,SS; GA-HI(4)6,AG; GA-HI(7)6,DS;
 GA-HI(1)13,DV; GA-HI(1)27,MBH;
 JE-SW(4)6,JW; JE-SW(6)6,AG; JE-(4)6,KS;
 JE-SW(3)12,JW; JE-(8)13,KS; JE-
 SW(1)19,GTAS
 Warb, Worm-eating 6-6 7/17 CH-SP(1)6,DV; CH-
 AW(1)6,DV;
 GA-HI(2)6,AG; GA-HI(3)6,DS; JE-
 SW(3)6,JW;
 JE-SW(3)6,AG; JE-(4)6,KS
 Ovenbird 6-13 7/43 CH-SP(3)6,DV; GA-HI(5)6,AG;
 JE-SW(15)6,JW; JE-SW(3)6,AG; JE-(10)6,KS;
 JE-SW(1)12,JW; JE-(6)13,KS
 Waterthrush, N 6-12 5/7 CH-AW(2)6,DV; GA-HI(1)6,AG;
 JE-SW(1)6,JW; JE-SW(2)6,AG; JE-SW(1)12,JW
 Warb, Kentucky 6-6 1/1 JE-(1)6,KS
 Yellowthroat, Com 4-19 7/14 CH-3/4 GA-1/2 JE-3/8
 Warb, Hooded 6-13 8/31 CH-SP(1)6,DV; GA-HI(2)6,AG;
 GA-HI(1)6,DS; JE-SW(5)6,JW; JE-SW(4)6,AG;
 JE-(10)6,KS; JE-(7)13,KS; JE-SR(1)13,KS
 Warb, Wilson's 6-20 4/4 GA-HI(1)6,AG; GA-HI(1)20,WBB;
 JE-SR(1)13,KS; JE-SW(1)19,GTAS
 Chat, Yellow-brst 13-13 1/1 JE-(1)13,KS
 Tanager, Summer 6-26 7/16 BR-PP(3)26,WP; CH-AW(1)6,DV;
 GA-HI(4)6,AG; GA-(1)6,SCD; GA-HI(3)6,DS;
 GA-HI(1)13,DV; JE-(3)6,KS
 Tanager, Scarlet 6-12 8/30 CH-SP(1)6,DV; CH-AW(2)6,DV;
 GA-HI(3)6,AG; GA-HI(6)6,DS; JE-SW(1)6,JW;
 JE-SW(3)6,AG; JE-(12)6,KS; JE-SW(2)12,JW
 Cardinal, Northrn 5-27 11/48 BR-1/9 CH-2/6 GA-5/20 JE-3/13
 Grosbeak, Ros-brs 6-27 7/16 BR-PP(1)26,WP; GA-HI(2)6,AG;

October Clearing House

GA-HI(5)20,WBB; GA-HI(1)27,MBH;
 JE-SW(5)6,AG; JE-(1)13,KS; JE-SR(1)13,KS
 Grosbeak, Blue 4-19 5/9 CH-1/1 GA-2/2 JE-2/6
 Bunting, Indigo 4-26 12/70 BR-1/2 CH-2/10 GA-5/35 JE-4/23
 Dickcissel 4-4 1/1 GA-HI(1)4,DV
 Sparrow, Savannah 11-26 6/31 BR-1/11 CH-3/12 GA-2/8
 Sparrow, Le Conte 20-26 3/24 BR-PP(2)26,WP; GA-BF(2)20,WBB;
 GA-BF(2)20,WBB
 Sparrow, NI Sh-tl 5-20 3/13 GA-BF(1)5,SS; GA-(2)20,WBB;
 JE-(10)19,GTAS
 Sparrow, Seaside 19-20 2/8 GA-(3)20,WBB; JE-(5)19,GTAS
 Sparrow, Lincoln 13-13 1/1 JE-SR(1)13,KS
 Sparrow, Swamp 19-26 2/6 BR-PP(4)26,WP; JE-(2)19,GTAS
 Blackbird, Red-wg 4-27 12/1401 BR-1/69 CH-6/547
 GA-2/250 JE-3/535
 Meadowlark, East 5-27 6/76 U-1/20 BR-1/34 CH-1/1
 GA-2/20 JE-1/1
 Grackle, Gr-tail 4-27 13/1183 U-1/250 CH-5/148
 GA-3/600 JE-4/185
 Grackle, Bt-tail 4-27 9/144 U-1/11 BR-1/28 CH-4/88 JE-3/17
 Grackle, Common 6-20 4/175 CH-2/11 JE-2/164
 Cowbird, Brn-head 6-20 5/827 CH-3/625 GA-1/2 JE-1/200
 Oriole, Baltimor 4-6 3/4 GA-HI(2)4,DV; GA-(1)6,SCD;
 JE-SW(1)6,AG
 Goldfinch, Amer 20-20 1/1 JE-SR(1)20,KS
 Sparrow, House 20-27 2/7 GA-YBR(3)20,WBB; GA-(4)27,MBH

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS: 28385; These species were reported that required notes: Mississippi Kite, Stilt Sandpiper, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Meadowlark

LIST OF OBSERVER CODES: Mike Austin, Peter Gottschling (AG); Donna Maddox (DM); David Sarkozi (DS); Don Verser (DV); Peter Gottschling, Bob Galloway (GG); Golden Triangle Audubon Society (GTAS); John Whittle (JW); Jan & Will Risser (JWR); Ken Stztraky (KS); Maggie & Bob Honig, Piney Woods Wildlife Society Field Trip (MBH); Phyllis & Tony Frank (PTF); Sandy & Cindie Dillard (SCD); Billie Strickland, Marilyn Crane, Dee Dee Snively, Mary Helen Pritchett (SCS); Billie Strickland, Dee Dee Snively (SS); John Whittle, Joy & Mike Brown (WBB); Warren Pruess (WP).

LIST OF LOCATION CODES: Anahuac NWR (AW); Brazos Bend St. Park (BB); Bolivar Flats

(BF); High Island (HI); Peach Point WMA (PP); Smith Point (SP); Sea Rim St. Park (SR); Sabine Woods (SW); Yacht Basin Road (YBR).

LIST OF COUNTY CODES: Brazoria (BR); Chambers (CH); Fort Bend (FB); Galveston (GA); Harris (HA); Jefferson (JE); Upper Texas Coast (U).

Magnificent Frigatebird - John Whittle October 16, 1996

At Smith Point over East Bay. The bird was soaring more or less along the shoreline. Unmistakable frigatebird shape. Large bird. The bird was black overall. The tail was deeply forked. The bill was long, hooked at the end.

Black Tern - J. Whittle, J. & M. Bowen October 20, 1996

Eighteen terns at three locations. Black Terns, identified by the gray upper wing surfaces and the black shoulder bar, were seen behind a barge on the Intracoastal Waterway at the end of Bob's Rd. (2 birds); behind a barge at the end of Yacht Basin Rd. (ten birds); and hawking insects over open water at Shoveler Pond, Anahuac NWR (six birds).

Prairie Falcon - P. Gottschling October 13, 1996

Observed in San Leon. Flew over our hawk watch station from the direction of the bay. From a distance we thought it might be a Mississippi Kite but we finally saw distinct field marks. It was a large light gray falcon the size of a Peregrine, pale single face marking, wings gray underneath with black innerwing and axillars. This is a lot closer to home than Smith Point but the birds are almost always high. Other observer was Bob Galloway.

Black-billed Cuckoo - D. Verser October 6, 1996

Flushed from low brush just outside oak motte at Smith Point. Sat for a few moments about 6 ft. off of the ground and 30 ft. away in clear view in good light. Yellow eye ring but bill all black. Black lower mandible slightly pale

towards base but without any trace of yellow. The primaries seemed to be very thinly edged with rufous but this was hardly noticeable. Underparts appeared clean white, but could not see undertail.

Field guides give only sketchy information about juv. cuckoos. Apparently some juv. Yellow-billed can have dusky mandibles. The almost complete lack of rufous in the wings, however, seems to strongly favor Black-billed.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird - Donna Maddox
October 21-28, 1996

Selasphorus hummingbird, probably an immature male. Green head, back, and tail. Long slightly decurved black bill. Long rounded tail with all tail feathers tipped with white - no rufous in tail. Breast white. Flank pale peach. Throat has finely diffused vertical streaking. The gorget feathers appear to be molting in on the sides of the throat giving a comma effect. No color is apparent. Observed in the shade with a spotting scope. Still present as of report date.

Couch's Kingbird - J. & W. Risser October 20,
1996

At Brazos Bend SP. Kingbird with a bright yellow abdomen, yellow undertail coverts (slightly duller), yellow breast washed with olive. Head gray with pale gray chin, throat, malar region. Dark ear coverts. Medium-sized bill, thick at base. Back olive yellow. Wings brown with paler feather edges. Tail notched. No white on lateral tail feathers. Called twice. Emphatic "pip-pip". Perched upright, sallying out for insects.

Gray-cheeked Thrush - D. Verser October 6,
1996

Under low hanging oak limbs in motte at Smith Point. Robin like with pale underparts and heavily spotted breast. Upperparts uniform gray brown from head to tail. Did not have red tail as does Hermit. Face evenly gray without eye-ring. Did not have any buffy tones in face like Swainson's.

Scarlet Tanager - D. Verser October 6, 1996

The first at Anahuac willows. Larger and more sedate than the warblers. Heavy body with large thick pinkish bill. Entire underside lemon yellow with some diffuse dark smudges. Black wings with no bars. Thin yellow eye-ring. Dark gray, forked tail. A Summer Tanager also appeared and was burnt orange overall with the wings just a little darker and grayer than the rest of the body. From another vantage point two Scarlet Tanagers were visible. Both had very black wings and this view generally appeared more olive than pure yellow. One had particularly jet black wings and a grayish bill. Later in the day another Scarlet Tanager was at Smith Point. It was also very yellow with black wings.

Similar description was provided by D. Sarkozi for 1 bird at High Island.



The Great Texas Birding Classic

designate this money to one of several habitat conservation projects.

Finally, other money raised will go directly to Texas Partners in Flight, a program dedicated to Texas bird conservation. Raising awareness about the value of non-consumptive outdoor activities is another important goal of the Great Texas Birding Classic.

Clearly, birders have an important and sizable impact on the Texas economy. By drawing birders from around the country (and potentially from around the world), The Birding Classic will showcase the economic and natural values of nature tourism, thus showing elected officials, local communities and state agencies that birders are an important market to cater to.

Finally, the birds. As a birder, I am sure you will agree that Texas is one of the premier places to bird in the United States. With 4 of the top 10 United States bird-watching destinations, several dozen unique Texas resident species and spectacular springtime "fallouts" of migratory species, the official competition checklist totals over 400 species, with an additional 100

or so rare and accidental species which the lucky birder may encounter.

Texas is famed for its "specialties": birds which cannot easily and reliably be found anywhere else in the United States, and the Great Texas Birding Classic will be a wonderful opportunity to add these species to your life list. Included in the specialties are Least Grebe, White-tailed Hawk, Plain Chachalaca, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Pauraque, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Ringed and Green Kingfisher, Green and Brown Jay, and Altimira Oriole.

In addition, the Birding Classic is scheduled for the peak of spring migration along the coast, so birders should be able to see several dozen migrants if conditions are right.

Ready to grab your binoculars and join us in April? Then write or call The Great Texas Birding Classic, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin TX, 78744; 1-888-TX-BIRDS (1-888-892-4737). Members of the staff will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have and will send you more information about participating in this exciting event.

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